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Living in a Cooperative House

By HELEN BASCOM

In the extreme northwestern corner of the Iowa State College campus stands a gray, three-story frame house, unappropriately called West Gate Cottage. It is one of the places of residence for the college girls, but it is different from the dormitories and home-management houses in that it is conducted upon a cooperative basis.

The building closely resembles a family home on both the inside and the outside. The first floor consists of five rooms; a parlor, dining room, kitchen, the advisor's room and her office. The furnishings are of as good, if not better, quality than those in any ordinary household.

The rooms on second and third floors are furnished in much the same manner as are the college dormitory rooms. There are six double rooms on the second floor and seven single rooms on the third floor.

The basement is an unusually large airy one. It is divided into three sections, a trunk room, a laundry room and a store room for canned and fresh fruits and vegetables. The laundry room is entered directly by steps which lead down from the kitchen. It is furnished with two white porcelain tubs, an ironing board, an electric iron and several yards of clothes line. There, at any time of the day or week, may be found all sorts of laundry, from a handkerchief to a sheet, waiting to be ironed the next day or any time within a week, depending upon how its owner has planned her week's work.

To the west of the laundry room is the trunk room. There trunks, suit



Cooperative girls are good cooks.

cases, traveling bags and laundry cases wait in orderly rows for the next vacation or a trip home.

North of the trunk room is the store room which has the appearance of a small wholesale grocery. On the shelves are canned fruits and vegetables of many kinds. These are arranged in groups, and the price of each can is marked so that the girls can easily determine the cost of meals

which they serve. In bins below the canned goods are kept such vegetables as potatoes, carrots and parsnips.

All of the work in the house is done by the girls who live there. They follow a very definite schedule, and each girl of the working force of eight knows exactly what her duties are for every day. These girls have charge of the floors which are cleaned daily and are kept in as good condition as possible. This is difficult work during the winter months. Just before Christmas, one girl was annoyed by the numbers of pairs of overshoes and rubbers which were left in the hall. One morning she gathered them all into a corner and put up this sign, "Do your Christmas shopping early! Rubbers and Golashes at reduced prices" which did the work for by evening the offending shoes had all disappeared.

The other five girls do the kitchen work which consists of preparing the meals and washing the dishes after breakfast and lunch. Four other girls wash the dishes after the evening meal.

At the head of the kitchen force is the manager. She has charge of the entire house and she serves as manager for four days. Her duty is to see that all the work is done, and that each girl does her share. The girls are responsible for the work that they do, and she, in turn, is responsible to the advisor. At the end of four days, the duties of every girl are changed in a regular routine so that the work may not become irksome.

The life in West Gate Cottage offers a number of advantages. It gives supplementary work to the girl who is



The spacious dining room in the cooperative house.

taking Home Economics. It provides practical information in home management for the girl who is taking Industrial Science. Each girl is given experience in all of the branches of housekeeping. The mistakes that she makes help to impress upon her the lessons which the very mistakes teach.

One quarter it seemed impossible for the girls to keep a glass water jug for any length of time. The two which had been provided were broken before another could be purchased and in an emergency one was borrowed from the Home Economics Division. This was cracked before the dishes were put away after the first meal and three more which were purchased by the advisor were broken before the jinx was

lifted. Water glasses also are hard to keep.

The necessity of performing definite tasks develops a sense of responsibility. Besides this there is a distinct financial advantage to living at West Gate Cottage. All but the perishable supplies are purchased in wholesale lots, and by this means there is considerable saving upon the price of food. There is a homelike atmosphere about the life in the cottage which makes it easier to become adjusted to college life and firm friendships are made in the smaller group.

Altho they do their own house work, the girls have plenty of time to have parties and picnics and to entertain guests. Last year a hiking club was organized which frequently enjoyed breakfasts that were cooked out of

doors. Once each quarter the girls entertain their friends at a picnic, a fireside or some other social affair.

The idea of establishing a cooperative house for college girls is a relatively new one, but it has already found favor in some of the large colleges and universities. As yet, it is only an experiment at Iowa State College and the working out of the experiment is being watched with interest by both students and faculty.

Miss Susan Bates of the Textiles and Clothing Department is not returning this year. She is contemplating commercial work in textiles. While she was at Iowa State College she built up the course in Children's Clothing to a well organized unit that was popular with mothers and students.

The Lure of a Shawl

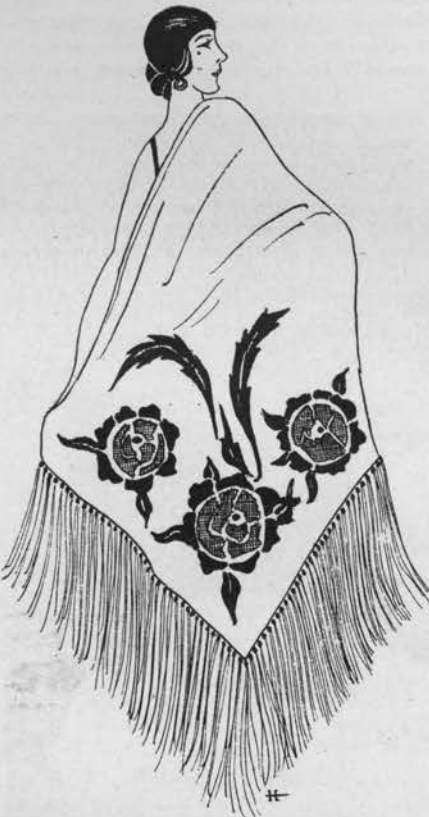
RARELY do you find a girl or woman who has not at some time dreamed of herself as leaning over a wrought iron balcony in Spain wrapped in a bright Spanish shawl, while a devoted admirer strums a guitar below in a dream garden. Some would dream of the garden especially; some who crave the delicate lines of beautifully shaped wrought iron would dream of the balcony; some would concentrate on the Spanish shawl.

There is something mysterious about a shawl that makes it at once romantic and very desirable. Not the cozy warmth of our grandmother's crocheted comfy, but the luxurious feel of a huge silk shawl, trailing fringe can give this feeling. A few years ago the Spanish shawls were sold at such fabulous prices that all one could do was to dream of them. They invaded the realm of evening wraps and became very desirable. Since the embroidered shawl has decreased slightly in favor as it became more common, it decreased in price to within the reach of most of us. With the decrease came the ascendancy of the painted shawl. Such a small thing as a painted flower or an embroidered flower can stamp the date of a shawl as plainly as if it bore a card on it for all to see.

Painted in exotic colors to carry out the color scheme of an evening frock, these painted shawls create an ensemble that is as graceful as it is colorful. No longer do we abide by the conventional flower designs of the embroidered shawl, but adapt modernistic designs of huge splashy flowers to our silk square.

Attainability? Paint it yourself. If you want a white or light colored shawl it is simple indeed to use Paintex, that wonderful new fabric paint. Send it to the cleaner and its colors will come back as bright as ever. Paint directly out of the bottle onto the fabric with no danger of the Paintex running. Use unknotted fringe nine to twelve inches long and you have a lovely shawl.

Or batik the shawl. With this method the background can be made any color you desire. Batik work takes much longer; there is the necessary time to put on and wash out the wax after each application of a different color. A more elaborate design and color scheme can probably be worked



out by batik. One lovely shawl was worked out with a black background on which appeared gorgeously colored flowers of strange design. Black fringe was used. It was a perfect complement to a white evening gown.

Some of the latest shawls are made of squares of lame to blend and match evening frocks of the same fabric. Looms are daily producing lame and gold and silver cloths that make sumptuous shawls for very formal occasions. They are weaving lovely designs into fabrics now. Fringe used on the shawls matches the fabric as nearly as possible; a gold lame shawl will be fringed in beige and a silver one in a soft gray. Reproduced in a cheap, poorly woven fabric these shawls lose their golden air and soon become bedraggled and stretched. A shawl that depends on fabric alone for its beauty must be of a lovely texture to pass muster. Commercial firms are producing machine printed versions of the painted shawl, but they can never be as lovely as the hand painted one. The difference can easily be detected.

How you wear your shawl depends pre-eminently on your size and figure. A shawl may be worn to give breadth or to further create the effect of suppleness and slimness. A short person who insists on wearing a shawl, arms akimbo, becomes hopelessly pudgy and ludicrous. Shawls were made for the slim person who can fold a shawl around her and become as mysterious as night. Angular lines melt into soft curves when enveloped by a shawl. And all important is the way a shawl makes you feel—pounds and pounds underweight—always an exuberant feeling. A short person may feel as though she were a tall, willowy brunette weaving along gracefully, but in spite of this delicious feeling she should wear her shawl with discretion and taste.

The shawl is designed for evening wear. And yet, on certain beaches you will see them at all hours of the day, even as an accessory to a bathing suit. The mystery associated with the shawl will soon disappear if such poor taste is long exhibited. Who is anxious to see such a lovely feminine thing worn as a bathing cape? Thank goodness it's getting too cold.